

Now, people say: Well, doctors make a lot of money. They do not make that much money. One of my friends, a prominent physician in Las Vegas—I do not think he will mind me mentioning his name; if he does, he can call me—Dr. Tony Alamo worked hard all his life—his father came in a boat from Cuba—believes in education. The senior Tony Alamo did everything he could to get his kids educated. He had a boy become a doctor.

Now, young Tony is one of the lucky ones because his dad has done so well with the rags-to-riches story in America, and I am sure as to his debt, his dad could help him pay it off, if necessary. But Dr. Alamo is very unusual because he has parents who can help him. He has explained to me that when doctors graduate from medical school, they get a job, and a lot of jobs now are with managed care, being they are all over, and they are salary jobs. They have difficulty with their salary job paying off their loans.

Our legislation will increase the maximum Pell grant, reduce student loan interest rates, expand loan forgiveness programs, and cap student loan payments at no more than 15 percent of their income. Our bill takes important steps to address this alarming and growing crisis.

We are going to take up the next work period the Defense authorization bill. One of the things we talked about doing in one of our 10 bills is to rebuild our military. It is in a state of disarray, disrepair. We learned that when we found out from the Governor of Kansas, after that tornado, that half of the equipment of her National Guard was in Iraq. Could not respond to the crisis there. It is that way all over the country.

JIM WEBB, who is a Senator from Virginia—JIM WEBB has a résumé of an American hero because that is what he is. He is a graduate of the Naval Academy, fought heroically in Vietnam, earned medals for heroism, was badly injured. His military career ended not because he wanted it to but because he was hurt and had to get out.

He believes the most important thing we can do to hold the President's feet to the fire in Iraq is force him to make sure our troops are ready to go to battle, they are trained properly, they have that equipment. He has an amendment we are going to work on to get in the Defense authorization bill.

One of the boys killed from Nevada this past week was on his fourth tour of duty in Iraq. His friend said: He told me he survived four explosions, and he didn't think he would survive another one. He did not. It was an awful death. We now have two hostages, prisoners of war in Iraq. Remember, when they were captured, they did not know who for sure the three were because they knew there was a body in the Humvee. So I called and talked to the dad, and he prayed that his boy was not in the Humvee, that he was a prisoner. But it didn't work. His boy was incinerated in

the Humvee. They could only find out who he was with DNA. He was on his fourth tour of duty.

That is what JIM WEBB is advocating. That is what we advocate. We are going to take that up in the Defense authorization bill, to make sure our troops have what they need. They do not have that now.

The bill last night that we passed provides funding to ensure our troops, until the first of October—active and retired—get some of the money they need. But we have to restore and renovate what has been ruined and damaged in Iraq.

JACK REED, a graduate of West Point, believes it will take nearly \$100 billion to bring our military up to what it should be. We are going to work toward that in the Defense authorization bill. That committee is chaired by CARL LEVIN. So we are going to make investments, critical investments to address troop readiness problems in the Army and Marine Corps caused by the President's flawed Iraq policy.

We will take a number of steps to reconfigure our national security strategy to better meet the threats and challenges we face today. That includes returning focus to the growing and increasingly overlooked problems in Afghanistan and working to improve special operations capabilities.

So once the next work session is complete, we will have taken action on all 10 of our day one priorities and passed most of them with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Now, we have had to fight to get that support, with cloture, on many different issues to get to where we could have a vote. But we have made it, and I appreciate that help from the Republicans.

We have also successfully addressed many crucial issues not on that list. The FDA reauthorization bill we passed facilitates the timely review of new drugs while improving the safety of the medicines patients take and the food we eat. We passed the Water Resources Development Act, known as WRDA, the first one in about 6 or 7 years. It will protect America's environment and keep our economy strong. We also passed the America COMPETES Act, which is an act to return our country to a position of leadership in science, research, and technology.

I would say by far the most important fight we have taken up this year is our effort to oppose the President's failed Iraq policy and bring the war to a safe and responsible end. The next work period, as I have indicated, will oppose the President's failed policy regarding the war at every turn. The Defense authorization bill will be a major part of that battle. We will continue this fight every day. We have had some bipartisan victories this year and some tough fights as well. Progress especially on the war has not come easy and that is not likely to change. But if we continue to work in good faith, seeking bipartisanship at every oppor-

tunity, I have no doubt we can accomplish great things for the American people.

Madam President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are not.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I voted in favor of the Vitter amendment yesterday because I do not support a plan that tells those who came to this country illegally up until December 31 of last year that they are excused and now have legal status.

I think that is a mistake.

But I do want to state clearly that there are a fair number of those 12 million people who came in here without legal authorization whose status must be resolved in a sensitive way. I am talking about those who have been here for decades, who have raised families, worked hard, and been model citizens. I believe we should adjust their status and give them an opportunity to earn citizenship.

That same right, however, should not apply to someone who just last December decided that they were going to sneak into this country illegally.

My understanding is that we will have additional amendments that will be sensitive to the need to distinguish that difference and I intend to support the amendments that will provide the sensitivity to those immigrants who have been here leading productive lives for a long period of time.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR TED STEVENS

Mr. BOND. Madam President, in April, TED STEVENS became the longest serving Republican Member of the United States Senate in our country's 230-year history. I join my colleagues in congratulating the Senator and thanking him for his many years of service and our friendship.

Much has already been said about Senator STEVENS' sometimes grouchy and intimidating demeanor. But if we look past the hulk ties, the scowling countenance, the vigorous defense of any and all attacks on Alaskan priorities, and the cowed staff who fear that they have fallen on the wrong side of our esteemed senior Senator, we see another, more compassionate side.

When I first arrived in Washington, DC, in 1987, my son was entering first grade at the same time as TED's beloved daughter. Sam and Lily became fast friends, and so did their parents.

TED and Catherine were very close friends of ours and like godparents to Sam. Anyone who knows TED well